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### UM forestry professor wins wilderness research award

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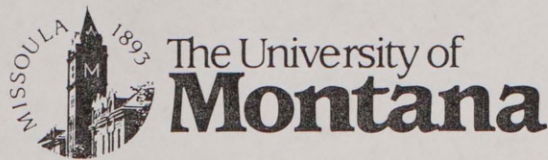
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 26, 2005

**Contact:** Steve McCool, UM professor of wildland recreation management, (406) 243-5406.

### **UM FORESTRY PROFESSOR WINS WILDERNESS RESEARCH AWARD**

#### **MISSOULA —**

The U.S. Forest Service has presented this year's Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship Research Award to Steve McCool, a professor of wildland recreation management at The University of Montana.

The award is given each year to an outstanding scientist who works closely with wilderness managers to apply research to real-world situations. McCool received his award earlier this month at a meeting of the World Wilderness Congress in Anchorage, Alaska.

"I work with some great people," McCool said, "and it's wonderful to have a hand in helping protect wilderness areas for our children and grandchildren."

McCool earned the award for his studies of wilderness visitors and using the Limits of Acceptable Change planning framework in Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. The LAC process uses citizen involvement to decide how much human-induced change is acceptable in wildland areas.

McCool has worked in UM's College of Forestry and Conservation since 1977. Before that he served on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and Utah State University. He received his doctorate from the University of Minnesota.

His professional involvement with "the Bob" -- the 1.5 million-acre wilderness complex

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comprising the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat wildernesses -- started in 1982 when he collaborated on a study of visitor-use patterns, attitudes and motivations. He also helped facilitate a new planning process for the area, which led to a new recreation management direction for the complex.

Though his work as a researcher, author and educator have focused primarily on the Bob Marshall Wilderness, McCool's planning processes are now being used in many areas within the National Wilderness Preservation System.

McCool was nominated for the award by Alan Watson, a research social scientist at the UM-based Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute. In the nomination materials, one McCool colleague noted his willingness to stay engaged in the Bob Marshall project over many decades, using that experience and lengthy research to further wilderness management in numerous areas. Another said McCool had conducted useful management research throughout his career.

McCool received an added bonus at the World Wilderness Congress meeting when his peers presented him with an award from the International Wilderness Leadership Foundation and the International Journal of Wilderness for a lifetime of achievement in wilderness planning and research. McCool said it meant a lot because it came from so many people he respected.

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